N E W S   R E L E A S E

B U R E A U   O F   L A B O R   S T A T I S T I C S
U . S .   D E P A R T M E N T   O F   L A B O R

BLS

Houston Area Employment — April 2021

Total nonfarm employment for the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area increased by 188,100 over the year in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See chart 1 and table 1.) Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that the local rate of job gain, 6.6 percent, compared to the 10.9-percent national increase. (The Technical Note at the end of this release contains metropolitan area definitions. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change for total nonfarm employment in the Houston metropolitan area, April 2018–April 2021
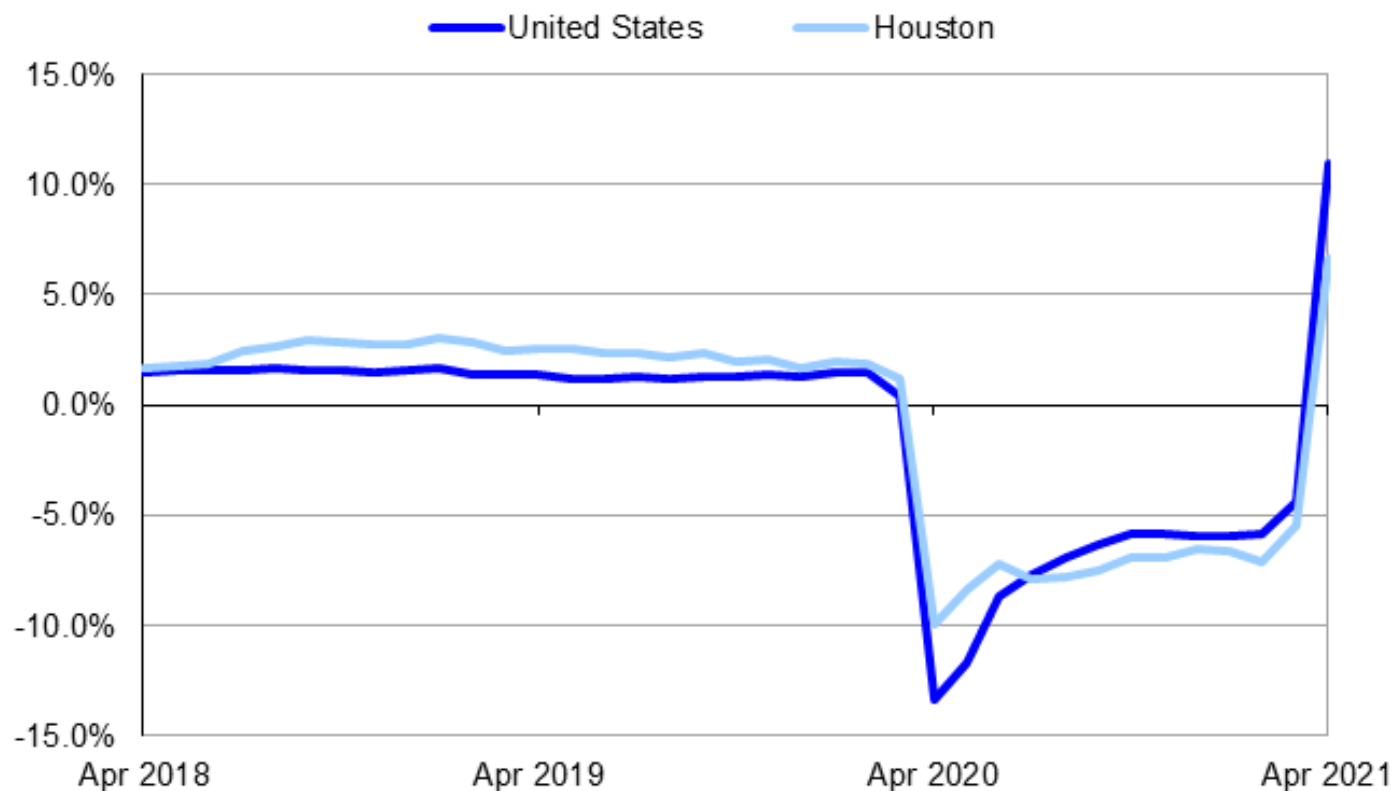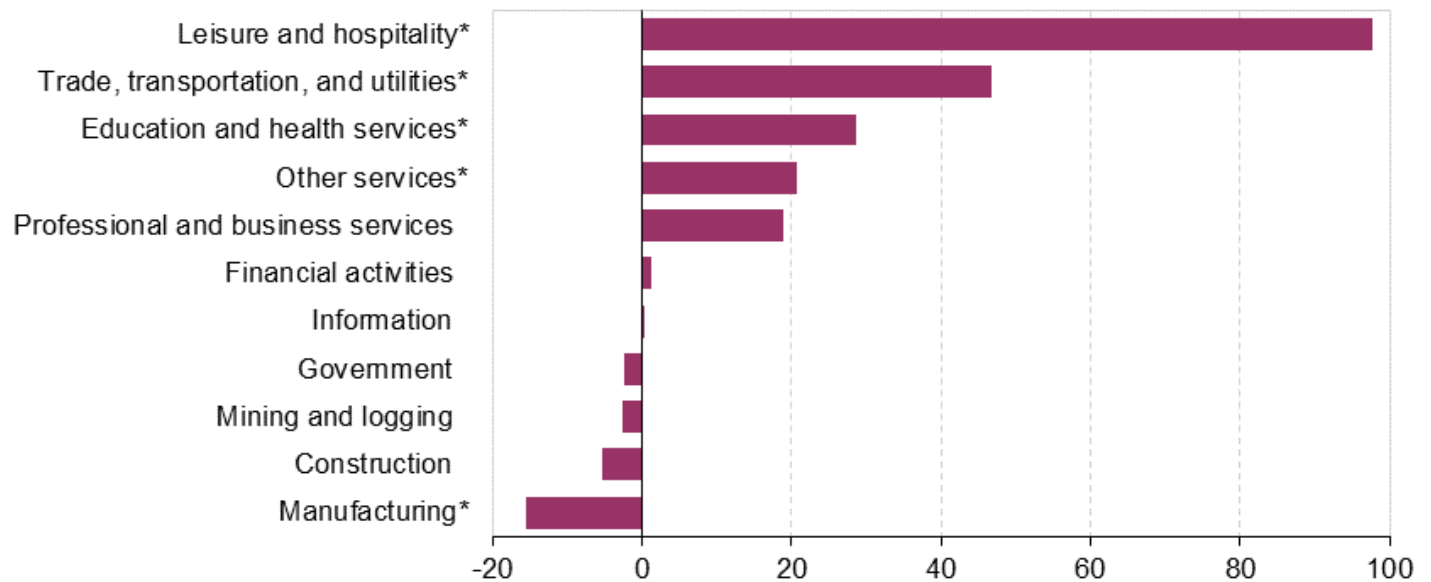

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industry employment

Leisure and hospitality had the largest employment increase over the year, up 97,600, with accommodations and food services accounting for 87,400 jobs gained. (See chart 2.) The 47.2-percent rate of job increase in the local leisure and hospitality supersector compared to the 61.9-percent national gain.

Chart 2. Over-the-year net change for industry supersector employment in the Houston metropolitan area, April 2021 (in thousands)

Note: An asterisk indicates statistical significance at the 90-percent confidence level.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Houston's largest supersector – trade, transportation, and utilities – added 46,700 jobs from April 2020 to April 2021. Within the supersector, employment gains occurred in retail trade (+33,800) and transportation, warehousing and utilities (+14,400). The trade, transportation and utilities supersector had an 8.1-percent gain in Houston, compared to the 10.4-percent increase for the nation.

Houston's education and health services supersector gained 28,700 jobs over the year. More than 80 percent of those job gains occurred in the health care and social assistance sector (+23,400). The education and health services supersector had a 7.8-percent rate of job increase in the local area compared to a 7.7-percent gain nationwide.

The other services supersector (which includes repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, membership associations, and private households) gained 20,800 jobs in the local area since April 2020. The 23.4-percent rate of local job growth matched the national rate.

Employment in manufacturing fell by 15,600 in the local area from April a year ago. Houston's 7.0-percent annual loss in manufacturing jobs was in contrast to the U.S. gain of 7.7 percent.

Twelve largest metropolitan areas

Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in April 2021. All 12 areas gained jobs over the year. New York-Newark-Jersey City had the largest increase (+966,700). San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward had the smallest gain (+161,100) among the largest areas. (See table 2 and chart 3.)

Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington had the highest rate of job gain, rising 12.4 percent, followed by New York (+12.0 percent) and Boston-Cambridge-Nashua (+11.9 percent). The rates of job gains in the remaining nine areas ranged from 11.0 percent in Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach to 6.6 percent in Houston.

Chart 3. Over-the-year net change in total nonfarm employment for the 12 largest metropolitan areas, April 2021 (in thousands)
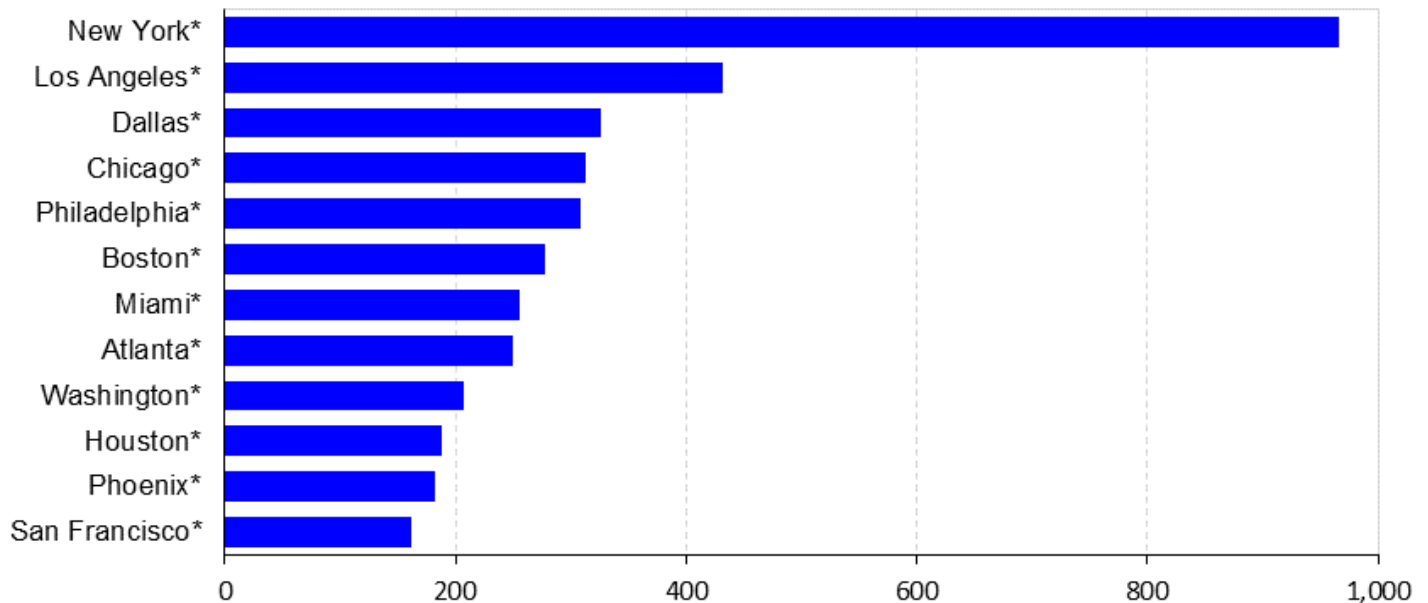
Note: An asterisk indicates statistical significance at the 90-percent confidence level.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment release for May 2021 is scheduled to be released on June 30, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

This release presents nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES survey is a Federal-State cooperative endeavor between State employment security agencies and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current-month weighted employment to that of the previous-month weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, the sample of establishments is very small or highly variable. In these cases, a model-based approach is used in estimation. These models use the direct sample estimates (described above), combined with forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease volatility in estimation. Two different

models (Fay-Herriot Model and Small Domain Model) are used depending on the industry level being estimated. For more detailed information about each model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/ces-20110307.pdf.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Reliability of the estimates. The estimates presented in this release are based on sample surveys, administrative data, and modeling and, thus, are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data also are subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the specific estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

Employment estimates. Changes in metropolitan area nonfarm payroll employment are cited in the analysis of this release only if they have been determined to be statistically significant at the 90-percent confidence level. Measures of sampling error for the total nonfarm employment series are available for metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions at www.bls.gov/web/laus/790stderr.htm. Measures of sampling error for more detailed series at the area and division level are available upon request. Measures of sampling error for states at the supersector level and for the private service-providing, goods-producing, total private and total nonfarm levels are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/web/laus/790stderr.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/web/laus/bmrk_article.htm.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this news release reflect the delineations issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on April 10, 2018.

The **Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties.

Additional information

Employment data from the CES program are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/sae/.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, United States and Houston metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021(p)	Apr. 2020 to Apr. 2021(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
United States						
Total nonfarm......................................	130,251	142,133	143,309	144,398	14,147	10.9
Mining and logging	615	589	609	611	-4	-0.7
Construction	6,452	7,008	7,204	7,375	923	14.3
Manufacturing...............................	11,369	12,206	12,271	12,246	877	7.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	24,311	26,803	26,899	26,849	2,538	10.4
Information	2,630	2,672	2,681	2,689	59	2.2
Financial activities	8,555	8,732	8,751	8,773	218	2.5
Professional and business services	19,053	20,449	20,546	20,714	1,661	8.7
Education and health services	21,880	23,388	23,520	23,571	1,691	7.7
Leisure and hospitality.................................	8,648	13,065	13,428	14,003	5,355	61.9
Other services	4,519	5,457	5,506	5,576	1,057	23.4
Government....................................	22,219	21,764	21,894	21,991	-228	-1.0
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area						
Total nonfarm......................................	2,830.8	2,965.0	3,000.2	3,018.9	188.1	6.6
Mining and logging	72.3	68.1	69.5	69.6	-2.7	-3.7
Construction	213.4	199.6	208.1	208.1	-5.3	-2.5
Manufacturing...............................	223.0	208.0	208.5	207.4	-15.6	-7.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	575.7	621.5	624.3	622.4	46.7	8.1
Information	28.2	28.7	28.6	28.5	0.3	1.1
Financial activities	161.4	162.1	163.4	162.6	1.2	0.7
Professional and business services	473.3	477.3	485.3	492.2	18.9	4.0
Education and health services	368.7	395.1	396.7	397.4	28.7	7.8
Leisure and hospitality.................................	206.6	283.2	292.4	304.2	97.6	47.2
Other services	88.9	103.2	107.2	109.7	20.8	23.4
Government....................................	419.3	418.2	416.2	416.8	-2.5	-0.6

(p) preliminary

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021(p)	Apr. 2020 to Apr. 2021(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA						
Total nonfarm...	2,486.4	2,713.3	2,730.1	2,735.9	249.5	10.0
Mining and logging	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.1	6.3
Construction	124.2	128.3	130.4	130.7	6.5	5.2
Manufacturing...	154.1	163.7	163.1	165.2	11.1	7.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	538.8	589.3	590.2	583.9	45.1	8.4
Information	90.9	98.9	99.7	101.4	10.5	11.6
Financial activities	176.2	178.9	180.4	179.3	3.1	1.8
Professional and business services	497.0	531.4	534.3	536.3	39.3	7.9
Education and health services	328.4	360.2	362.7	366.1	37.7	11.5
Leisure and hospitality..................................	167.9	241.9	247.1	247.7	79.8	47.5
Other services	75.9	91.2	91.6	93.6	17.7	23.3
Government...	331.4	327.8	328.9	330.0	-1.4	-0.4
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm...	2,333.0	2,556.4	2,572.3	2,611.0	278.0	11.9
Mining, logging, and construction..................	83.2	111.8	113.2	117.4	34.2	41.1
Manufacturing...	169.3	176.4	177.9	178.4	9.1	5.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	336.5	395.3	396.2	397.6	61.1	18.2
Information	80.1	78.4	78.7	79.4	-0.7	-0.9
Financial activities	178.4	181.3	181.6	182.4	4.0	2.2
Professional and business services	481.8	502.2	502.8	513.6	31.8	6.6
Education and health services	525.2	554.9	558.5	560.8	35.6	6.8
Leisure and hospitality..................................	111.2	173.7	178.6	193.7	82.5	74.2
Other services	62.4	83.3	83.6	85.1	22.7	36.4
Government...	304.9	299.1	301.2	302.6	-2.3	-0.8
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm...	4,089.4	4,312.8	4,345.9	4,402.6	313.2	7.7
Mining and logging	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.6	-0.2	-11.1
Construction	151.8	145.6	155.2	168.2	16.4	10.8
Manufacturing...	382.9	393.9	392.5	390.7	7.8	2.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	830.6	907.2	907.7	911.2	80.6	9.7
Information	73.1	71.1	70.3	69.8	-3.3	-4.5
Financial activities	310.6	314.4	313.8	315.5	4.9	1.6
Professional and business services	745.4	771.3	772.0	787.2	41.8	5.6
Education and health services	665.4	700.7	703.8	704.3	38.9	5.8
Leisure and hospitality..................................	251.1	315.7	331.4	353.8	102.7	40.9
Other services	153.7	174.6	176.8	178.6	24.9	16.2
Government...	523.0	516.9	520.9	521.7	-1.3	-0.2
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm...	3,413.4	3,694.6	3,728.1	3,740.2	326.8	9.6
Mining, logging, and construction..................	216.7	214.6	218.5	215.4	-1.3	-0.6
Manufacturing...	271.6	279.4	281.6	280.7	9.1	3.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	738.4	807.6	812.5	812.0	73.6	10.0
Information	77.2	79.2	79.2	78.7	1.5	1.9
Financial activities	318.6	327.0	328.2	326.9	8.3	2.6
Professional and business services	597.5	636.0	642.8	646.8	49.3	8.3
Education and health services	414.7	449.7	452.7	451.5	36.8	8.9
Leisure and hospitality..................................	236.4	332.9	341.9	354.0	117.6	49.7
Other services	94.0	113.8	115.5	115.8	21.8	23.2
Government...	448.3	454.4	455.2	458.4	10.1	2.3
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX						
Total nonfarm...	2,830.8	2,965.0	3,000.2	3,018.9	188.1	6.6
Mining and logging	72.3	68.1	69.5	69.6	-2.7	-3.7
Construction	213.4	199.6	208.1	208.1	-5.3	-2.5

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands) - Continued

Area and Industry	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021(p)	Apr. 2020 to Apr. 2021(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Manufacturing	223.0	208.0	208.5	207.4	-15.6	-7.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	575.7	621.5	624.3	622.4	46.7	8.1
Information	28.2	28.7	28.6	28.5	0.3	1.1
Financial activities	161.4	162.1	163.4	162.6	1.2	0.7
Professional and business services	473.3	477.3	485.3	492.2	18.9	4.0
Education and health services	368.7	395.1	396.7	397.4	28.7	7.8
Leisure and hospitality	206.6	283.2	292.4	304.2	97.6	47.2
Other services	88.9	103.2	107.2	109.7	20.8	23.4
Government	419.3	418.2	416.2	416.8	-2.5	-0.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,259.7	5,574.5	5,632.9	5,691.3	431.6	8.2
Mining and logging	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	-0.1	-5.0
Construction	223.4	247.9	248.7	251.2	27.8	12.4
Manufacturing	435.8	448.0	449.7	450.7	14.9	3.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	918.2	1,042.0	1,045.8	1,040.3	122.1	13.3
Information	195.2	200.8	204.8	204.0	8.8	4.5
Financial activities	319.8	322.8	323.2	321.5	1.7	0.5
Professional and business services	850.4	895.1	903.0	909.9	59.5	7.0
Education and health services	993.3	1,051.2	1,054.6	1,062.8	69.5	7.0
Leisure and hospitality	430.1	508.7	536.7	573.6	143.5	33.4
Other services	144.3	157.9	160.4	166.4	22.1	15.3
Government	747.2	698.2	704.1	709.0	-38.2	-5.1
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,316.4	2,560.6	2,573.3	2,572.2	255.8	11.0
Mining and logging	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	131.6	138.1	139.9	137.4	5.8	4.4
Manufacturing	81.9	87.8	87.8	87.8	5.9	7.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	526.3	576.6	578.9	574.4	48.1	9.1
Information	45.2	46.5	46.1	46.1	0.9	2.0
Financial activities	182.2	187.5	188.1	189.2	7.0	3.8
Professional and business services	404.2	443.4	444.3	445.4	41.2	10.2
Education and health services	372.2	399.2	401.2	401.3	29.1	7.8
Leisure and hospitality	171.2	269.6	274.1	277.5	106.3	62.1
Other services	91.7	107.1	108.4	109.7	18.0	19.6
Government	309.1	304.0	303.7	302.6	-6.5	-2.1
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	8,045.5	8,828.7	8,922.3	9,012.2	966.7	12.0
Mining, logging, and construction	269.8	343.8	354.2	367.5	97.7	36.2
Manufacturing	283.9	327.5	331.0	331.5	47.6	16.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,302.4	1,532.8	1,538.6	1,540.4	238.0	18.3
Information	285.1	287.0	290.1	287.2	2.1	0.7
Financial activities	751.7	755.7	754.2	754.8	3.1	0.4
Professional and business services	1,388.7	1,451.7	1,471.5	1,493.2	104.5	7.5
Education and health services	1,812.7	1,957.1	1,978.1	1,984.1	171.4	9.5
Leisure and hospitality	372.1	546.7	569.9	613.9	241.8	65.0
Other services	276.5	342.0	345.5	348.2	71.7	25.9
Government	1,302.6	1,284.4	1,289.2	1,291.4	-11.2	-0.9
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,494.0	2,757.8	2,774.6	2,802.7	308.7	12.4
Mining, logging, and construction	85.9	111.0	112.1	114.6	28.7	33.4
Manufacturing	162.4	172.6	172.1	173.0	10.6	6.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	429.8	503.2	506.7	508.3	78.5	18.3
Information	49.5	49.5	49.7	50.4	0.9	1.8

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Area and Industry	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021(p)	Apr. 2020 to Apr. 2021(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Financial activities	212.1	214.3	213.6	215.4	3.3	1.6
Professional and business services	425.9	452.0	453.2	456.4	30.5	7.2
Education and health services	601.2	639.0	641.4	646.2	45.0	7.5
Leisure and hospitality	118.1	184.6	191.7	203.2	85.1	72.1
Other services	74.8	103.0	103.6	104.8	30.0	40.1
Government	334.3	328.6	330.5	330.4	-3.9	-1.2
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ						
Total nonfarm	1,990.7	2,155.0	2,165.6	2,173.1	182.4	9.2
Mining and logging	3.2	2.8	2.8	2.8	-0.4	-12.5
Construction	133.6	130.4	133.1	133.5	-0.1	-0.1
Manufacturing	130.8	134.4	135.4	134.5	3.7	2.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	379.8	428.0	429.5	427.9	48.1	12.7
Information	36.6	38.0	37.0	36.7	0.1	0.3
Financial activities	201.8	203.6	202.9	204.0	2.2	1.1
Professional and business services	342.6	362.2	360.3	362.1	19.5	5.7
Education and health services	317.0	346.2	348.0	349.6	32.6	10.3
Leisure and hospitality	141.4	199.7	205.8	210.4	69.0	48.8
Other services	54.9	67.0	67.8	67.8	12.9	23.5
Government	249.0	242.7	243.0	243.8	-5.2	-2.1
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,105.4	2,227.5	2,248.0	2,266.5	161.1	7.7
Mining and logging	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Construction	91.2	122.2	122.9	123.2	32.0	35.1
Manufacturing	131.3	141.9	141.6	140.2	8.9	6.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	308.9	335.0	333.9	333.4	24.5	7.9
Information	131.5	134.0	134.6	135.2	3.7	2.8
Financial activities	139.8	137.3	138.0	138.6	-1.2	-0.9
Professional and business services	468.3	482.4	486.6	490.4	22.1	4.7
Education and health services	331.1	353.9	358.9	357.4	26.3	7.9
Leisure and hospitality	131.1	153.5	160.3	172.9	41.8	31.9
Other services	60.0	66.4	68.2	70.0	10.0	16.7
Government	311.9	300.6	302.7	304.9	-7.0	-2.2
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	2,965.1	3,125.0	3,144.3	3,172.6	207.5	7.0
Mining, logging, and construction	153.2	156.4	158.7	158.9	5.7	3.7
Manufacturing	51.2	55.0	55.1	55.4	4.2	8.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	342.6	386.0	386.8	387.8	45.2	13.2
Information	73.6	72.7	72.6	73.8	0.2	0.3
Financial activities	154.0	152.4	151.6	152.6	-1.4	-0.9
Professional and business services	754.0	764.1	765.8	772.5	18.5	2.5
Education and health services	400.1	427.2	429.8	431.9	31.8	7.9
Leisure and hospitality	158.8	221.8	228.7	242.1	83.3	52.5
Other services	177.1	187.8	188.2	188.9	11.8	6.7
Government	700.5	701.6	707.0	708.7	8.2	1.2

(p) preliminary